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Message Text

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47
ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 COME-00 EB-04 FRB-01 TRSE-00

XMB-02 OPIC-03 CIEP-01 LAB-01 SIL-01 OMB-01 /081 W
---------- 107651
R 141539Z NOV 74
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6828
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, FR, NI
SUBJECT: ARIKPO VISIT TO FRANCE

REF: LAGOS 10199 (NOTAL)

1. COMMISSIONER EXTERNAL AFFAIRS ARIKPO RETURNED TO LAGOS NOVEMBER 13 AFTER THREE-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO FRANCE ANTICIPATED REFTEL AND PRIVATE STAY IN LONDON THEREAFTER. ARIKPO TOLD FRENCH CHARGE AT AIRPORT HE WAS EXTREMELY PLEASED WITH VISIT, BUT MADE NO SUBSTANTIVE REMARKS EITHER TO CHARGE OR TO AIRPORT PRESS.

2. VISIT HAS ATTRACTED REMARKABLY LITTLE ATTENTION HERE. PRESS CARRIED WIRE SERVICE REPORTS OF ARIKPO STATEMENTS IN FRANCE TO EFFECT THAT STRAINED RELATIONS OF CIVIL WAR PERIOD NOW RELEGATED TO PAST HISTORY, BUT HAS DONE NO FURTHER EDITORIALIZING. RADIO COMMENTARY EMPHASIZED THAT INITIATIVES FOR IMPROVED RELATIONS CAME FROM GOF SIDE AND CITED ECONOMIC ADVANTAGES TO FRANCE IN ITS CLOSE TIES TO NIGERIA. FOR NIGERIANS, COMMENTARY SUGGESTED, FMG EFFORTS
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PROMOTE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES WHICH

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INCLUDES FRANCOPHONE NEIGHBORS MADE CORDIAL RELATIONSHIP
WITH FRANCE SEEM DESIRABLE. COMMENTARY CONCLUDED ON SELF-
CONGRATULATORY NOTE THAT "RECIPROCAL GESTURE TO FRANCE" OF
ARIKPO VISIT REPRESENTS "TRIUMPH OF REASON AND MATURITY IN
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS".

3. LOW KEY TREATMENT OF ARIKPO VISIT SEEMINGLY
REFLECTS COMMENT MADE TO FRENCH CHARGE BY NIGERIAN BUSINESSMAN
WHO ASKED WHY FRANCE BOTHERED TO INVITE ARIKPO WHEN BEST
WAY TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WAS TO SEND INVESTORS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 14 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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